

Suggested Talking Points
Robert F. Barnes, USAID/OEDG
Turn-Over Ceremony
Sinunuc Bridge
Brgy. Sinunuc, Zamboanga City
Wednesday, 29 August 2007

Buenas Dias, Ladies and Gentlemen.

- I am very pleased to be in Zamboanga City today to celebrate the completion of this bridge, which was constructed through the combined efforts of the governments of the Philippines, the United States, and the City of Zamboanga.
- The American People stand ready to support peace and development efforts in Zamboanga and throughout Mindanao. This bridge, which is one of about 850 infrastructure projects constructed by USAID throughout Mindanao, and one of 39 infrastructure projects constructed in the City of Zamboanga – is a manifestation of our readiness to support peace and development.
- We believe the facilities constructed through our partnerships with Municipal Governments and the National Government will help generate economic growth and expand economic opportunities and sustain the peace in Mindanao.
- The bridge will allow reliable, year-round movement of people and goods moving between barangay Sinunuc and the rest of the City. It will also make it easier and less costly for people here to access markets and services available in the city proper.
- More reliable and less costly transportation of goods should further energize the productive spirit that seems to characterize all Mindanaoans, and help make your communities more prosperous.

- Thanks to the City Government of Zamboanga for its commitment to properly maintain the bridge so that residents of this area will be able to use it for years to come.
- Through projects such as this, the United States of America reaffirms its commitment to the vision of a peaceful, productive and prosperous Zamboanga City and Mindanao.
- On behalf of the U.S. Government and the American people, I would like to thank you, Mayor Lobregat, and all the other officials present here today, for your collaboration and warm hospitality.